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PTQ3296

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 03918 01 OF 02 101915Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	MFA-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	DS-00	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	CAC-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OCS-03	PM-00	ACE-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/008W

-----159A3D 101917Z /38

O 091702Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8887  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY VATICAN CITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003918

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y //DATE IN SUBJECT CHANGED//

NSC FOR LLORENS  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2012  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, ASEC, CASC, OAS, VE  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITREP: DECEMBER 09, 1:00 PM

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CLASSIFIED BY: DCM FREDERICK B. COOK FOR REASONS 1.5 (B)  
AND (D)

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SUMMARY  
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1. (C) OAS SECRETARY GENERAL GAVIRIA ANNOUNCED THE GOV AND THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC) NEGOTIATING TEAMS WILL MEET DECEMBER 9 AT 1500. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE UP AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION SHORTENING THE PRESIDENT'S TERM AND ALLOWING NEW ELECTIONS AGREED UPON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 6 JUN 2027  
DATE/CASE ID: 08 MAR 2007 200503244

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IN THE GAVIRIA TALKS. DCC MEMBERS PLAN TO MEET FOURTH ARMORED DIVISION COMMANDER GEN. RAUL BADUEL TO DISCUSS HIS USING HIS INFLUENCE WITH PRESIDENT CHAVEZ TO FIND A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL CRISIS. FIRST LADY MARISABEL DE CHAVEZ APPEARED ON TELEVISION WITH HER TWO CHILDREN TO ASK THE PRESIDENT TO "OPEN YOUR WINDOWS AND LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA." IN HIS DECEMBER 8 HOMILY FOR ONE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE DECEMBER 6 SHOOTINGS IN PLAZA FRANCIA, JOSE IGNACIO CARDINAL VELASCO CALLED ON ALL VENEZUELAN TO REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE, BUT CLEARLY PLACED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME ON THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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GAVIRIA TALKS  
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2. (C) GOV AND DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DCC) NEGOTIATING TEAMS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET DECEMBER 9 AT 1500. OAS SECRETARY GENERAL CESAR GAVIRIA TOLD REPORTERS THE  
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DECEMBER 7 SESSION HAD BEEN POSITIVE. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH SIDES HAD RETURNED TO THE TALKS, RECOGNIZING THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THEY HAVE FOR FINDING A PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC, AND CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT POSSIBLE  
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3. (C) A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE RAISED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NA) UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN THE GAVIRIA TALKS. ACCORDING TO

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TOLD POLOFF DECEMBER 8 THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS OF APPROACHING THE AMENDMENT. THEY COULD SHORTEN THE PRESIDENT'S TERM TO FOUR YEARS, THUS NECESSITATING GENERAL ELECTIONS IN 2003, OR SHORTEN IT TO FIVE YEARS, THUS ALLOWING FOR A RECALL REFERENDUM SOONER THAN AUGUST 2003. THE NA WOULD NEED ONLY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (HALF THE DEPUTIES PLUS ONE) TO AMEND AN ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND THEN IT WOULD GO TO A REFERENDUM. ASSERTED THAT THERE IS SUPPORT FROM A NUMBER OF MVR DEPUTIES INTERESTED IN PROTECTING THEIR POLITICAL CAREERS WHO ARE CONFIDENT THEY WOULD BE RE-ELECTED IN GENERAL ELECTIONS.

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DCC REQUESTS MEETING WITH BADUEL  
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4. (C) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF DECEMBER 8 THAT FOURTH  
ARMORED DIVISION COMMANDER GEN. RAUL BADUEL HAS ACCEPTED A  
MEETING WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE DCC TO DISCUSS A PEACEFUL  
RESOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL CRISIS. [REDACTED]

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	MFA-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
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	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OCS-03	PM-00	ACE-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
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FIRST LADY SPEAKS OUT  
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6. (U) VENEZUELAN FIRST LADY MARISABEL RODRIGUEZ DE CHAVEZ APPEARED ON TELEVISION WITH HER TWO CHILDREN DECEMBER 8 AND ASKED THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING IS NORMAL IN THE COUNTRY TO "OPEN THE WINDOWS AND YOUR HEARTS AND LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA." SHE ASKED HER ESTRANGED HUSBAND, THE PRESIDENT, "IN THE NAME OF YOUR DAUGHTER, YOUR FAMILY, LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE." SHE ASKED GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND THE OPPOSITION TO LOOK FOR PRUDENCE, AND ASKED OAS SECRETARY GENERAL GAVIRIA TO HELP IN ANY WAY HE COULD AND TO "INTERMEDIATE, AND BE A MEDIATOR" IN AN OBJECTIVE MANNER. FINALLY, SHE ASKED THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA TO "HAVE FAITH THAT IF WE WANT TO, WE CAN MOVE THE COUNTRY FORWARD." MRS. CHAVEZ SAID SHE APPEARED ON TELEVISION WITH HER CHILDREN FOR THEIR SAKE, AND SAID HER CONSCIENCE COMPELLED HER TO SPEAK OUT.

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CARDINAL CALLS FOR UNITY  
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7. (C) IN HIS DECEMBER 8 HOMILY FOR ONE OF THE PLAZA FRANCIA VICTIMS, JOSE IGNACIO CARDINAL VELASCO CALLED ON ALL VENEZUELAN TO REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE, BUT CLEARLY CITED THE GOV'S SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD. "THOSE THAT

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GOVERN HAVE A HIGH RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL FOR UNITY," HE  
SAID. "PREACHING HATRED IS A SIN AND AS SUCH IS PUNISHED..."

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] LONG-TIME PRO-CHAVEZ PRIEST, FATHER  
VIVES, HAD PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE CARDINAL ON STATE-RUN  
CHANNEL 8.

8. (C) SPEAKING AT THE SAME FUNERAL, ARCHBISHOP ANDRE DUPUY,  
THE PAPAL NUNCIO, SAID THAT THE MURDERS WERE "ABSURD,  
SCANDALOUS, AND CAUSE US PROFOUND INDIGNATION." HE ADDED  
THAT "IT DOES NOT PERTAIN TO US TO SPEAK OF VENGEANCE," BUT  
THAT "GOD KNOWS WHO ARE THE ONES TRULY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
MASSACRE." DUPUY CALLED ON RESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS TO  
UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MURDERS, AND REITERATED  
POPE JOHN PAUL II'S DECEMBER 4 PUBLIC CALL FOR TRUE DIALOGUE  
IN VENEZUELA.

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[REDACTED]  
SHAPIRO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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